

**Abstract****Detecting Fixer in Hardcopy Apparatus**

Fixer is detected on a print media 22 by applying a predetermined pattern 200, Figure 3, of fixer to the media, and over or under-printing it with a fill of coloured ink, and then optically detecting the predetermined pattern. For example, magenta ink may be applied over the fixer pattern on a glossy media, areas with both fixer and ink having a detectable increase in optical density compared to areas with ink alone. The pattern is scanned and the image information is used to check fixer nozzle functionality and fixer printhead alignment.